

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-06 CA-01 SIL-01 LAB-04 USPS-01
EB-08 ABF-01 MMO-01 /036 W
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P 131301Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8621
AMCONSUL CALGARY PRIORITY
AMCONSUL HALIFAX PRIORITY
AMCONSUL MONTREAL PRIORITY
AMCONSUL QUEBEC PRIORITY
AMCONSUL TORONTO PRIORITY
AMCONSUL VANCOUVER PRIORITY
AMCONSUL WINNIPEG PRIORITY

UNCLAS OTTAWA 04449

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: CFED, AFSP, CA
SUBJECT: EMERGENCY DISTRIBUTION OF U.S. FEDERAL BENEFIT
CHECKS IN CANADA

REF: A) STATE 132159 B) OTTAWA 03011 C) FRY - DUEMLING
LETTER, DATED JULY 6, 1978 (NOTAL) D) HALL - KELLER
MEMORANDUM (NOTAL)

1. CANADIAN MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND SERVICES HAS PROVIDED
FORMAL ASSURANCE (REF C) THAT, IN THE EVENT OF STRIKES BY
CANADIAN LETTER CARRIERS OR INSIDE POSTAL WORKERS, WE MAY
USE ITS EMERGENCY DISTRIBUTION NETWORK FOR CANADIAN BENE-
FIT CHECKS TO EFFECT DISTRIBUTION OF U.S. FEDERAL BENEFIT
CHECKS. IN VIEW OF IMMINENT STRIKE ACTION BY EITHER OR
BOTH LABOR GROUPS, EMBASSY IS MOVING TO RESOLVE REMAINING
ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL DETAILS.

2. DEPARTMENT, ACCORDING TO MINISTRY'S EXPRESSED PREFERENCE,
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HAS AGREED TO SHIP IN BULK ALL THE APPROXIMATELY FIFTY
THOUSAND U.S. FEDERAL BENEFIT CHECKS TO THE EMBASSY BY AIR
OR, IN THE EVENT OF AN AIR STRIKE, TO THE EMBASSY'S ACROSS
THE BORDER ADDRESS: U.S. EMBASSY OTTAWA, C/O U.S. IMMI-
GRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE, OGDENSBURG, PRESCOTT
BRIDGE, OGDENSBURG, NEW YORK, 13669. THE CHECKS WILL BE IN
TWO BATCHES, THOSE WITH POSTAL CODES AND THOSE WITHOUT;

THE LATTER WILL BE FURTHER BROKEN DOWN ACCORDING TO PROVINCE TO AID THE MINISTRY'S SORTING OPERATION. SUPPLY AND SERVICES WILL THEN SEND U.S. CHECKS TO DISTRIBUTION POINTS THROUGHOUT CANADA NEAREST TO RECIPIENTS' MAILING ADDRESSES.

3. WITH REGARD TO PROCEDURES AT THESE POINTS, RECIPIENTS COMING TO PICK UP CHECKS WILL BE ASKED TO PROVIDE PROOF OF IDENTITY. IN THOSE INSTANCES WHERE RECIPIENTS ARE INCAPACITATED, OR WHERE IT IS MORE CONVENIENT FOR AN INDIVIDUAL TO PICK UP SEVERAL CHECKS -- FOR A GROUP OF PATIENTS AT A NURSING HOME, FOR EXAMPLE -- SUPPLY AND SERVICES WILL ATTEMPT TO BE AS FLEXIBLE AND ACCOMMODATING AS POSSIBLE. THE OFFICES WILL REMAIN OPERATIONAL FOR APPROXIMATELY TEN DAYS, OVERLAPPING THE END OF ONE MONTH AND THE BEGINNING OF ANOTHER. EMBASSY HAS REQUESTED THAT SUPPLY AND SERVICES RETURN THE UNDISTRIBUTED CHECKS TO THE NEAREST OR APPROPRIATE CONGEN IN EACH CASE. THE LATTER MAY THEN ATTEMPT TO EFFECT DELIVERY IF FEASIBLE OR MAINTAIN THE CHECK ON FILE IN THE EVENT OF AN INQUIRY. EMBASSY HAS REQUESTED FROM SUPPLY AND SERVICES A COMPLETE LISTING OF ALL THE DISTRIBUTION POINTS NATIONWIDE FOR DISSEMINATION TO OUR CANADIAN POSTS. THIS LISTING WILL BE RELEASED ONCE ALERT POSTURE IS OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED. UNDER THIS ARRANGEMENT CONGENS WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION BACK-UP TO MAJOR ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN.

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4. FOR DEPARTMENT: INSTANCES ARE INEVITABLY GOING TO OCCUR WHERE RECIPIENTS WILL NOT RECEIVE THEIR CHECKS, EITHER BECAUSE OF MISDIRECTION OF THE CHECKS OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES. EMBASSY REQUESTS GUIDANCE AS TO HOW THESE REPORTS OF NON-RECEIPT SHOULD BE HANDLED AND WHETHER FEDERAL AGENCIES WILL HAVE ANY SPECIAL PROCEDURES TO PROVIDE REPLACEMENT CHECKS. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE FROM REF C, THE MORE CHECKS WITH POSTAL CODES, THE EASIER AND MORE ACCURATE THE SORTING AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE CHECKS. IN VIEW OF THE MIXED PROGRESS TO DATE (INDICATED IN REF D) IN HAVING POSTAL CODES ENTERED ON U.S. BENEFIT CHECKS, EMBASSY URGES DEPARTMENT TO PRESS FOR FURTHER FEDERAL AGENCY COOPERATION IN THIS ENDEAVOR.

5. THE ADDITIONAL COSTS OF THIS EXERCISE ARE NOT NOW EASILY QUANTIFIABLE. EMBASSY WILL BE ENTERING INTO CONTRACT DISCUSSIONS WITH ADVERTISING FIRM WITHIN NEXT SEVERAL DAYS. WITH REGARD TO CHARGES MADE BY SUPPLY AND SERVICES FOR USE OF ITS NETWORK, REF C HAS INDICATED THAT THESE MAY BE ASSESSED IF DIFFICULTIES ARISE IN SORTING AND DISTRIBUTING THE U.S. BENEFIT CHECKS. ADDITIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS INCURRED BY OUR POSTS WILL DEPEND ON EFFECTIVENESS OF

MAIN DELIVERY AND NOTIFICATION SYSTEM AND THE RESULTING WORKLOAD CREATED BY AN AS YET UNDETERMINED VOLUME OF UNCLAIMED CHECKS.

6. IN TERMS OF OVERALL TIMING, IT NOW APPEARS THAT A STRIKE MAY BE IN EFFECT AT THE TIME, APPROXIMATELY EIGHT TO TEN DAYS BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF NEXT MONTH, WHEN A DECISION MUST BE MADE WHETHER OR NOT TO UTILIZE THE EMERGENCY SYSTEM.

7. EMBASSY OF COURSE WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS REGARDING THESE ARRANGEMENTS FROM ANY OR ALL ADDRESSEES. ENDERS

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